7/14/73

Dear Dick,

If my memory is accurate, Monday will be four weeks since my meeting with Conart and Gross. I understand from Roy that Gross was delayed a week in leaving for Germany. Gross had said he might phone back with an answer. I presume that with the desire for speed, if it had been favorable he would have. So, in interpret all silences as negatives.

However, I have been working, to the degree the conditions imposed by our personal situation permits. In a number of areas, including some I'd not discussed with you. Fruitfully, too, I think, especially in terms of our Glorious Leader and Hunt. I have a prima facie case of their having known each other and worked together in the past

I have written perhaps 20,000 words (and read none). I have continued writing snatches and notes as they seemed appropriate and as I could. The amount of reading I have to do to stay on top of developments is exceptional and burdensome. Most of the about two files drawers of specific Watergate material is not organized. I have abundant relevant files of the past, some already given to young and fine scholars, one of whom recently returned parts of my early Nixon files, so I could use them.

As best I can, I'll continue writing. With the support needed to make it possible, I could have drafted half of a long book by now. So, I'll do the best I can, necessarily more slowly.

Meanwhile, undetected and unreported, there are further and I think sinister developments. One may be comprehensible to the lawyer in you. With Mitchell and Ehrlichman blood enemies, with Mitchell having made it clear he'd cut his arm off and if need be get himself disbarred for Nixon, and with Ehrlichman making it also clear that he would eviscerate Mitchell, the committee, despite contrary recommendation made in my presence, insisted on calling Mitchell before Ehrlichman, hearing Mitchell before he had the inspiration Ehrlichman's attack on him would have provided. This, to me, is a kind of a fix, one in which Mitchell at least will be a kind of lightening rod for said Glorious Leader. For the moment, and it is unclear, there seems to be the possibility that the Nazi Mafia (once known as Nixon's German Mafia) will follow suit, if with a little internecine indulgence, already begun.

That my estimates, including, you may recall, that the committee would not keep its schedule, have turned out to be correct is only a small part of what persuades me this can be an important work, one that should be publishable in the U.S. Therefore, despite the absence of support or means or prospect, I will continue with it as rapidly as circumstances permit. And hope.

A week ago I saw Bob Woodward. He says he and Carl Bernstein are working on their book, which is born out by their infrewuent appearance in the Post. However, he was not expecting to complete it this year, so that would not be real competition at the outset. What S & S would do with it once theu have it is something else.

I have learned more about the McCord book. It will be farfarfar right, the real reason he made an exceptional deal with Ed Uhlan of Exposition for a vanity. McCord is putting up $10,000 cash. (Hushmoney cast on troubled waters?) He rejected a standard contract and an advance, which the sharp Uhlan offered. The deal is that in return for paying these costs in advance, McCord will get a 40% royalty on the first 5,000 of a $10 book, thereafter 20%. He should make money, for the book will sell well to the extremists. It will be a political document, an extension of Nixon's Gestapo plans. He refused commercial publication to control this extremist doctrine he insists be in the book. I wish I could think that the rushing of this one would encourage a principled publisher to want one telling it as it is to be available and to compete with a fascist treatise.

If others are on the horizon, none of my eyes have seen them announced, save crap.

I have made no effort to see or interview McCord. I have decided against interviewing him because there is too much that will have to be eliminated as it is, one of the problems of outlining that is simplifying. However, I may, for I have what he may want: proofs of Hunt's Bay of Pigs book, due in November (copies deposited in other hands). I have not had time to read them and I feel they are incomplete. If it is no problem, could you ask Arlington House for a set? They may give them. They did to UPI. I'd then know if what I have is complete, and it may be important. They also gave Tad Szulc a set of galleys. The Szulc NYTimes Sunday mag piece of several weeks ago bears an unmistakable CIA stamp.

When I heard nothing from you and had to plan for the most rapid possible preparation of a retyped draft, I made local inquiry about NCR paper, which can save large hunks of typing and correcting time and the cost of xeroxing. Locally all I can do is have it made up in backed sets by a printer. The cost will be $65.00, presently prohibitive for me. This means that when we get to retyping we'll have to use carbons, meaning that each sheet will take lots of time. And corrections even more.

By the way, and much more important for a U.S. book, I expect to have xeroxes of the originals of all the documents in Nixon's domestic-intelligence scheme. Don't be deceived, it was never officially rescinded. I'll have to pay a xeroxing charge that Roy kindly agreed to supply. I expect this will include a xerox of Hunt's letter blackmailing the White House. That also seems to have succeeded, for he is asking his former Cuban minions about wise investments.

I may file a Freedom of Information suit against Special Prosecutor Cox, and the need may be for more than what he has denied me. His operation is by no means clear and by no means certain to be a thorough one. I asked for what was released and not really understood. It was released, is "public information" within the law, and I know the law as he does not. (Cross, by the way, has much interest in this law and my use of it.)

This is a hasty update planned for today in the event I'd heard nothing from Roy by now. If I hear nothing from Inge Feltrinelli in a few more mails, I'll write her again to see if she would be satisfied with a short summary instead of an outline.

Best to the family,

Sincerely,